

D&CP – OFFICE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Resource Summary

(\$ in thousands)

Appropriations	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Estimate	FY 2010 Request	Increase / Decrease
Funds	3,892	4,024	4,100	76

Mission

The Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) was established pursuant to the Foreign Missions Act of 1982. Its primary missions are to:

- Protect the national security interests of the United States;
- Encourage members of foreign missions and international organizations with diplomatic immunity to respect local law;
- Advocate for better treatment of U.S. diplomatic missions and personnel abroad;
- Ensure the application of reciprocity to the benefits and services accorded foreign diplomatic missions in the United States and assist such missions in addressing local legal requirements and working with local officials; and
- Serve foreign diplomats by operating programs for diplomatic motor vehicles, tax, customs, property, and travel and ensure appropriate benefits and services to the foreign mission community in the United States on a reciprocal basis.

Priorities

Foreign Tax Relief Agreements

OFM aggressively pursues arrangements for the relief of foreign taxes imposed on U.S. diplomatic and consular missions worldwide. OFM leads negotiations for tax-relief arrangements for the Department's foreign diplomatic operations, with an emphasis on high cost capital construction projects under the Capital Security Cost Sharing Program. Since FY 2005, OFM's efforts have led to the establishment of roughly 50 construction tax-relief arrangements which are expected to yield an estimated cost savings in excess of \$285 million. At the FY 2010 request level OFM will negotiate 6 additional construction tax-relief arrangements, with an anticipated combined cost savings of in excess of \$20 million in foreign tax expenses.

Services for the Foreign Diplomatic, Consular, U.N., and International Agency Communities in the U.S.

OFM must provide a wide variety of services to 118,000 members of over 420 foreign embassies and embassy annexes, 200 UN missions, and 700 foreign consulates nationwide. In FY 2008 alone, OFM administered a diplomatic motor vehicle program that managed over 13,000 vehicle registrations, reviewed and processed more than 7,000 drivers licenses, and verified the eligibility and issued 6,000 tax exemption cards and 12,000 requests for customs entry for members of the foreign mission community. OFM also provides critical support to the Secretary of State's Office of the Chief of Protocol (S/CPR), which as a result processed approximately 50,000 accreditations for members of the foreign diplomatic community and international organizations in the United States. In FY 2010, OFM anticipates an approximate 3-5% workload increase. The inability for OFM to provide reciprocal services as outlined above would impede U.S. government operations abroad.

The Office of Foreign Missions Information System (TOMIS)

In FY 2008, OFM began the transition to on-line application submissions (e-Gov) from all foreign embassies and consulates. During FY 2008, more than 42,000 applications for OFM and S/CPR services were submitted through the OFM-managed system. In order to fully implement the e-Gov (paperless) operations, in FY 2010 enhancements are required to the Office of Foreign Missions Information System (TOMIS). This critically important system collects and transmits valuable information and service requests from foreign embassies, UN missions, and international organizations using e-Government (paperless) technology throughout the government to appropriate agencies. These required system upgrades will support additional business processes that are currently paper-based thus simplifying administration of the data and most importantly providing faster and more reliable access to critical data for the broad

D&CP – OFFICE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

and growing OFM user community. This user community encompasses an array of federal, state, and local law enforcement, security entities, which must rely on and make use of the TOMIS data. On a 24/7/365 basis, OFM's TOMIS database provides support to OFM duty officers and the Diplomatic Security Command Center, as a vitally important tool to respond to official and law enforcement inquiries involving the foreign diplomatic community resident in the United States.

Federal Income Tax Withholdings and Compliance

OFM continues to identify information sharing opportunities that support other government agencies. In FY 2010, OFM information will allow the Internal Revenue Service to increase the compliance efforts with regard to locally engaged staff members of foreign missions in the United States who are required to comply with federal and state income tax filing requirements. The cooperation between OFM and the IRS will increase the rate of compliance by such individuals with their income tax requirements through consistent enforcement and heightened awareness and understanding of the relevant federal, state and local income tax laws.

Import Clearance for Foreign Missions

In accordance with the Safe Port Act of 2006 and the Foreign Missions Act, OFM continues to work with representatives of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection to implement a single electronic portal through which OFM collects and distributes information associated with the clearance of imports consigned to foreign missions, international organizations and their members in the United States. The system must adhere to OMB requirements for Service Component Based Architecture.

OFM Regional Offices – Foreign Mission Community

The Office of Foreign Missions includes six Regional Offices located in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston, and Miami. Regional Offices continue to provide OFM services and benefits to the growing numbers of foreign diplomatic and consular missions outside Washington D.C. The Regional Offices expand the Department's presence within the United States by fostering and solidifying relationships with federal, state, and local officials as well as the extensive diplomatic community. For example, in 2008, OFM's Chicago Regional Office coordinated the Arab Cities Mayors Forum with the City of Chicago on behalf of the Department.

Motor Vehicle Compliance

The Office of Foreign Missions' Motor Vehicle Office, pursuant to the Foreign Missions Act of 1982 and the 1978 Diplomatic Relations Act, ensures that diplomats and foreign missions carry federally mandated high levels of liability insurance. The office also deals with diplomats who commit motor vehicle infractions, but whose immunity prevents them from being subject to the jurisdiction of US courts, to protect public safety interests throughout the United States.

In addition, this office ensures that U.S. missions abroad enjoy important and reciprocally balanced motor vehicle privileges and treatment. Additional funding will allow OFM to continue the highly successful introduction of a more secure diplomatic license plate by designing and launching a new Department of State Drivers' License. This license will substantially comply with the implementing regulations for the REAL ID Act of 2005 and thereby meet critically important Department of Homeland Security equities.

Custodial Properties

In accordance with the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations, the Office of Foreign Missions has the responsibility to protect and preserve properties of foreign governments with which the United States has severed diplomatic relations. OFM is the designated custodian of 11 diplomatic and consular properties of Iran throughout the United States. Increased staffing is required to allow for a dedicated staff member to manage this critical treaty obligation. In 2010, OFM must also provide program oversight to effectively and appropriately preserve the former Iranian chancery in accordance with the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control license.

D&CP – OFFICE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

FY 2010 Request Resource Summary

	Positions				Funds (\$ in thousands)		
	American Domestic	Overseas	FSN	Pos Total	Bureau Managed	American Salaries	Funds Total
FY 2008 Actual	0	0	0	0	3,892	0	3,892
FY 2009 Estimate	0	0	0	0	4,024	0	4,024
FY 2010 Built-in Changes							
Annualization of FY 2009							
American COLA	0	0	0	0	0	20	20
Domestic Inflation	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
FY 2010 American Cost of Living Adjustment	0	0	0	0	0	52	52
Total Built-in Changes	0	0	0	0	4	72	76
FY 2010 Current Services	0	0	0	0	4,028	72	4,100
FY 2010 Request	0	0	0	0	4,028	72	4,100

Funds by Program Activity (\$ in thousands)

Office of Foreign Missions	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Estimate	FY 2010 Request	Increase / Decrease
Conduct of Diplomatic Relations	2,076	2,146	2,371	225
Bureau Direction	2076	2,146	2,371	225
Foreign Mission Activities	0	2,146	2,371	225
Political Affairs	0	0	0	0
Foreign Mission Activities	0	0	0	0
Domestic Administrative Support	550	569	650	81
Bureau Direction	550	569	650	81
Foreign Mission Activities	550	560	650	81
Domestic Administrative Management	0	0	0	0
Information Resource Management	986	1,019	747	(272)
Office Automation	986	1,019	747	(272)
Other Office Automation	0	0	0	0
Policy Formulation	280	289	332	43
Bureau Direction	280	289	332	43
Political Affairs	0	0	0	0
Foreign Mission Activities	0	0	0	0
Total	3,892	4,024	4,100	76

D&CP – OFFICE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

FY 2010 Request Program Activities

Department Of State	Positions				Funds (\$ in thousands)		
	American Domestic	American Overseas	FSN	Pos Total	Bureau Managed	American Salaries	Funds Total
Conduct of Diplomatic Relations	0	0	0	0	2,299	72	2,371
Bureau Direction	0	0	0	0	2,299	72	2,371
Foreign Mission Activities	0	0	0	0	2,299	72	2,371
Domestic Administrative Support	0	0	0	0	650	0	650
Bureau Direction	0	0	0	0	650	0	650
Foreign Mission Activities	0	0	0	0	650	0	650
Information Resource Management	0	0	0	0	747	0	747
Office Automation	0	0	0	0	747	0	747
Other Office Automation	0	0	0	0	747	0	747
Policy Formulation	0	0	0	0	332	0	332
Political Affairs	0	0	0	0	332	0	332
Foreign Mission Activities	0	0	0	0	332	0	332
Total	0	0	0	0	4,028	72	4,100

Funds by Domestic Organization Unit

(\$ in thousands)

Office of Foreign Missions	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Estimate	FY 2010 Request	Increase / Decrease
Houston Field Office	890	920	617	(303)
Office of Property, Taxes, Services, and Benefits	228	236	290	54
Office of Vehicles, Tax, Customs	2,430	2512	2,716	204
Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary	344	4,024	477	(309)
Total	3,892	4,024	4,100	76

Funds by Object Class

(\$ in thousands)

Office of Foreign Missions	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Estimate	FY 2010 Request	Increase / Decrease
1100 Personnel Compensation	2,430	2,512	2,097	(415)
1200 Personnel Benefits	344	356	508	152
2100 Travel & Trans of Persons	228	236	98	(138)
2500 Other Services	890	920	1,397	477
Total	3,892	4,024	4,100	76